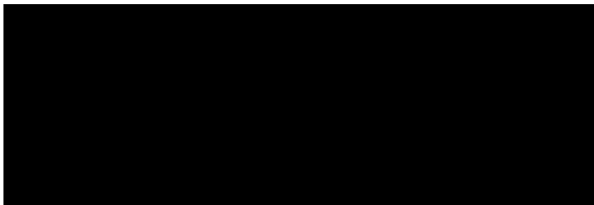


16 DEC 1959

STATOTHR



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Dear

Mr. Dulles has asked me to acknowledge your letter of November 24, 1959.

We in the Central Intelligence Agency share your keen interest in the impressive economic developments in Soviet Russia. You are fortunate to have been able to visit the U.S.S.R. and personally observe the situation there.

As to your questions pertaining to the U.S. policy response to the Soviet challenge, this is, of course, a matter of active interest and concern not only in Washington but throughout the country. The months to come will surely see increasing public debate on this problem. The Central Intelligence Agency, however, is not a policy making office; the National Security Act of 1947, which authorizes our existence, specifically excludes policy-making from our field of responsibility. Your concern over this problem can thus be more effectively addressed to appropriate other Federal agencies or through your elected Congressional representatives.

Your interest is much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Otto E. Gathe
Assistant Director

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